Determinants of Participation in Paralympic sports among athletes with disabilities in developing nations. The case of Kenya & Uganda

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The role of Sports

- Has long been recognized to play a significant role in equalizing opportunities

- The USA – Education for all PL94-142 Act placed physical activity as being critical in empowering PWDs

- Kenya 1980 - Presidential decree that made physical education compulsory in all schools
opportunities

- Sport is a powerful medium for
  - Inclusion and socialization

- Sport for people with a disability is an excellent opportunity to “activate” the UN Convention
Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

- Article 7: Children with disabilities
- Article 8: Awareness-raising
- Article 24: Education
- Article 25: Health

Kenya signed the convention 2008 while Uganda
Huge potential for growth of Paralympic sports in African countries

- "Sub-Saharan Africa is the most important development challenge of the 21st century". (WB 2011)

- Conflicts
- Malnutrition
- Natural disasters
- Disabilities
Socio-economic determinants of Paralympic participation and success

- Understanding the socio-economic determinants of Paralympic participation and success is important for the Paralympic movement’s growth and evolution.

- Many of the existing research in this realm have focused on western and or developed nations.

- Unfortunately, for those in developing and non western nations many persons with disability do not participate in sports.
The reality in Kenya and Uganda

Methodology

- The study assessed the socio-cultural determinants for participation by PWDs in the two countries.

Sample for study

- Kenya – 200
- Uganda – 100
- All participating at national level
- Assessed from sports competition venues
Areas of assessment

- **Scope**
  - Sports policy structure in place
  - Financing Parasports
  - Access to Facilities
  - Gender differences
  - Cultural practices
  - Access to classifiers
Number of Participants

- Male: 114 (57%)
- Female: 86 (43%)

- Male: 74 (74%)
- Female: 26 (26%)
AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

- Kenya much older participants
- Uganda participants between 21-30 year bracket
Type of disability represented

Chart Title

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Kenya</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
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KENYA
UGANDA
Cause of disability

- Snake bites
- Polio
- House flies - Trachoma
- Accidents
- Wars
Challenges to Participation

3 major challenges
Sports Policy

- Uganda
  - Physical activity sports bill 2017 not yet in place
  - No structured way of funding sports
  - Only five sports mentioned in the bill that exclude disability spots

Kenya
- A unified sports policy
  - Equal support by Government
  - Awards for winners of all sports –equal
  - Not yet implemented
Government funding

- Inadequate
- Limited allocation of budget
- Limited corporate sponsorship
- Rely on donations
- No long term sponsorships
Reliance on donations

- Motivation has been a major supporter
- Local equipment makers have stepped in
• APDK has been on the forefront making wheelchairs
• Empowers PWD to participate in the annual Stanchart Marathon
Equipment & Facilities

- major problem to participation
- No appropriate equipment
- Few shared by all participants
- Rely on donations that many times inappropriate for the terrain
Federations work with senior players and not at grass roots

- Many athletes over 30 years
- Prefer mature athletes
- Lack of trained coaches
- Financial constraints
Number of days in training

- Most practice twice
  - Training facilities far
  - Coach availability a factor
  - They are busy with their small business enterprises
  - Lack money to pay for taxi
Very few participants coming through to elite level sports

- Mean age of athletes 30 years
- No scouting for talent at school games
- Older athletes resist new athletes
- Possessive of any equipment provided
Few Opportunities – Force one to jump from one sport to another to try luck thus lack of specialization
Level of education

- Many people with disabilities not attending school
  - Schools provide opportunities for skill learning
  - Schools only place where sports skills learned
  - Uganda has a higher number of participants with higher training

*Graph showing data for primary, secondary, and post-secondary education in Kenya and Uganda.*
In and out of school

- Majority are out of school
- Those who participated in school games drop out
- Majority of participants live in urban centres
Out of school programmes

- **Sports programmes at community level**
  - **NGO initiatives**
    - KNPC
    - Special Olympics
    - Deaflympics
    - APDK
    - Christian Blinden Mission
  - **Religious organisations**
    - Salvation army
  - **Community clubs**
    - In towns
Distance to training facility

- Facilities far
- Inaccessible roads for wheelchair users
- Few accessible facilities and mainly in urban areas
- Costly to take taxi
Opportunities

- Limited opportunities to participate
- Few appropriate equipment
### Paralympic Summer Games

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<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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